

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9957

S E C R E T KINGSTON 294

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS 2

LP- 08,5, PFOR , JM, US

SUBJECT: VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY OPPOSITION LEADER

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

1. EMBOFF MET WITH OPPOSITION LEADER EDWARD SEAGA  
EVENING JANUARY 19, AT LATTER'S REQUEST. FULL MEMCON BEING  
POUCHED, BUT TWO REQUESTS HE MADE, ONE OF WHICH REQUIRES  
ACTION ON YOUR PART, MERIT IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

2. SEAGA WILL BE VISITING NEW YORK IN FEBRUARY AND WANTS  
TO MEET WITH SENIOR-LEVEL OFFICIAL IN WASHINGTON AS PART  
OF TRIP. HE POINTED OUT THAT PRIME MINISTER MANLEY, WHILE  
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, HAD BEEN RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT AT  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL. HE EXPECTS SIMILAR TREATMENT.  
HE WOULD LIKE APPOINTMENT DURING WEEK OF FEBRUARY 15, AND  
WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER IT CAN BE ARRANGED BY END OF THIS WEEK  
AT VERY LATEST. EMBOFF TOLD HIM HE DID NOT KNOW  
WHETHER HE COULD OBTAIN REPLY THAT QUICKLY BUT WOULD  
TRY. HE MAY BE ACCOMPANIED BY FORMER JLP PM HUGH  
SHEARER

3. SEAGA SAID HE HAD REPORT THAT IMF HAD RECOMMENDED  
DEVALUATION. HE URGENTLY WANTED TO KNOW IF REPORT TRUE AND  
ALSO WHAT WAS MAGNITUDE OF DEVALUATION URGED. EMBOFF TOLD  
HIM THAT PRIVILEGED INFO BETWEEN IMF AND GOJ AND EVEN IF  
IT WERE AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY WE COULD NOT PASS IT, THIS

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WOULD CONSTITUTE INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF

JAMAICA. SEAGA REFUSED TO ACCEPT EMBOFF REPLY AND INSISTED THAT REQUEST BE PASSED ON TO WASHINGTON. EMBOFF ASSURED HIM WE WOULD FULLY REPORT CONVERSATION.

4. MANLEY AND NOW DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DAVID COORE DID MEET WITH CHARLIE MEYER IN WASHINGTON BACK IN 1971 WHEN THEY WERE IN OPPOSITION. THEN PRIME MINISTER SHEARER WAS FURIOUS AT THEIR RECEPTION. SEAGA'S REQUEST COMES AT AN ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT TIME, WHEN WE ARE BEING ACCUSED BY THE RADICAL LEFT OF TRYING TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT AND SEAGA IS NAMED OUR NO 1 AGENT

5. DESPITE THE LESS THAN PROPITIOUS TIMING, I SUPPORT SEAGA'S REQUEST FOR AN APPOINTMENT AND URGE YOU TO RECEIVE HIM DURING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 15. HE WILL BEND YOUR EAR ABOUT THE EVILS OF THE MANLEY GOVERNMENT, THE COMMUNIST THREAT, AND END UP ASKING FOR SUPPORT. ALTHOUGH YOU WILL HAVE TO DISAPPOINT HIM AND REITERATE THAT WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF INVOLVING OURSELVES IN JAMAICAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, IT WILL NOT BE A TOTALLY UNPLEASANT NOR UNPRODUCTIVE EXCHANGE

6. IF YOU ARE WILLING TO RECEIVE SEAGA, I RECOMMEND WE HANDLE THE VISIT EXACTLY LIKE WE DID IN MANLEY'S CASE IN 1971, I.E., WE INFORM THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS THAT WE HAVE TRANSMITTED MR. SEAGA'S REQUEST TO WASHINGTON AND HAVE ADVISED HIM THAT OUR REPLY WILL BE CONVEYED TO HIM THROUGH THE JAMAICAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON VIA THE MEA. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR EARLY REACTION TO VISIT REQUEST

7. AS FOR SEAGA'S REQUEST FOR DEVALUATION INFORMATION, EMBASSY INTENDS TO STICK WITH REPLY ALREADY GIVEN TO HIM UNLESS YOU HAVE ANOTHER LINE YOU WOULD LIKE US TO TAKE.  
GERARD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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